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LETTER DATED 27 SEPTEMBER 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF CHINA, FRANCE, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement issued after the meeting which you had with our Ministers for Foreign Affairs on 27 September 1995. We should be grateful if you would have it circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) QIN Huasun
Permanent Representative
of China to the
United Nations

(Signed) Alain DEJAMMET
Permanent Representative
of France to the
United Nations

(Signed) Sergei V. LAVROV
Permanent Representative of
the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

(Signed) John WESTON
Permanent Representative of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland to the
United Nations

(Signed) Madeleine K. ALBRIGHT
Permanent Representative of the
United States of America
to the United Nations

Annex

[Original: English, Chinese, French and Russian]

Statement issued on 27 September by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the five permanent members of the Security Council following a meeting with the Secretary-General

1. On 27 September 1995, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the five permanent members of the Security Council met with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali. Taking part were the Vice Premier and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Mr. Qian Qichen; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of France, H.E. Mr. Hervé de Charette; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, H.E. Mr. Andrey Kozyrev; the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, H.E. Mr. Malcom Rifkind; the Secretary of State of the United States of America was represented by H.E. Ambassador Madeleine K. Albright.

2. On this fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War and the birth of the United Nations, the Ministers reviewed with the Secretary-General the world situation. They noted with satisfaction what has been achieved and the fact that institutions of the United Nations have been central to the pursuit of peace and security for the past 50 years in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, but noted also that serious challenges remain and that effective and efficient institutions within the United Nations system have an important role to play in confronting them.

3. The Ministers affirmed their commitment to the United Nations, whose Charter lays down the fundamental principles for an international order based on peace and security, sustainable development and respect for human rights. In this connection, the Ministers commended the Secretary-General for his contribution to enhancing the work of the United Nations and promoting the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

They expressed their appreciation for the efforts of the United Nations in maintaining world peace and security and stressed the primary responsibility of the Security Council in this respect. They welcomed the growing and positive role of regional organizations and arrangements in building stability and security and preventing and managing conflicts, including through peace-keeping, and affirmed the importance they attached to reinforcing cooperation between the United Nations and such organizations under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Ministers welcomed the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Supplement to an Agenda for Peace" (S/1995/1), which clearly indicates directions in which efforts should be made to further enhance the Organization's ability to perform the tasks laid down for it under the Charter, and the priority given by the Secretary-General to the prevention of conflicts.

4. The Ministers remained concerned at the persistence of tension in parts of Africa. They supported the efforts of the United Nations to assist in promoting a speedy and peaceful settlement of the conflicts in Angola, Liberia and Rwanda and to prevent serious deterioration in other countries, in particular in Burundi.

The Ministers expressed their satisfaction about the evolution of the situation in Mozambique. They also welcomed recent positive developments in Angola and Liberia. They called upon the parties in the countries concerned to implement relevant Security Council resolutions and their agreements in order to achieve national reconciliation and final and lasting settlements. They agreed that the efforts of the international community should be directed to the peaceful resolution of the above conflicts. In this regard, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and other regional organizations and countries concerned have played and can continue to play an important role. They stressed the importance they attach to assistance to African countries to help them to enhance their own capabilities for peace-keeping and conflict prevention.

5. The Ministers remained particularly concerned at the situation in the region of the Great Lakes in Central Africa. They expressed support and appreciation for the humanitarian and peace-keeping efforts undertaken by the United Nations, humanitarian organizations and Member States to alleviate the sufferings of the refugees and displaced persons and to speed up their safe return to their homeland. They also expressed their satisfaction about the efforts undertaken by the Government of Rwanda to accommodate the return of the refugees. They encouraged the Government of Rwanda to take all necessary measures to hasten the process of national reconciliation in Rwanda. They stressed the importance they attach to the International Tribunal for Rwanda beginning its work expeditiously. Finally, the Ministers expressed their support of the initiative of the Secretary-General to convene a regional conference on peace, stability and development in the region of the Great Lakes in consultation with OAU and regional Governments. They expressed the hope that this conference would constitute a decisive step to tackle the problems encountered by the countries of the region.

6. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction at the progress made in Haiti since the return of the legitimate President to his country. They commended the international community's efforts which permitted the beginning of the process of the restoration of democracy in Haiti. They also called upon the international community to continue to give assistance to the Haitian people in order to accelerate development and progress in that country. They stressed that the Haitian people themselves bear their ultimate responsibility for maintaining security and democracy in their country.

7. The Ministers noted with satisfaction that the peace process in the Middle East has continued to progress. They expressed appreciation for the continuing efforts of the Russian Federation and the United States as co-sponsors and for the support given by the United Nations and the European Union. They welcomed the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement. They condemned vigorously acts of terrorism and violence aimed at destroying the peace process. They appealed to the leaders of both parties to continue their efforts despite these obstacles. The Ministers also welcomed the signature of the peace treaty between Israel and

Jordan on 26 October 1994 and the progressive establishment of normal relationships between the people of those two countries. They expressed the hope that Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic would achieve progress in the negotiations between them. They also expressed their hope for a quick breakthrough on the Lebanese track of the peace process. They reaffirmed their commitment to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon. The Ministers expressed their continued support for the peace process based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) in order to produce a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region. They requested the parties to refrain from any action or decision in the field that could complicate negotiations. The Ministers reaffirmed the need for tangible support from the international community for the success of the peace process.

8. The Ministers expressed their support for the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). They reaffirmed that Iraq must comply fully and unconditionally with all its obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions.

9. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the efforts of the Security Council, the Secretary-General and the member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States to bring to an end the conflicts on the territory of the former Soviet Union.

They noted with satisfaction the close cooperation existing between the United Nations missions (the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) and the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) peace-keeping forces in Georgia and Tajikistan and the contribution by the Russian Federation to these forces. They also expressed their appreciation for the cooperative working relationship established between the United Nations and the Russian Federation in seeking to bring about a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia, and in Tajikistan.

10. The Ministers reiterated that there can be no military solution to the conflict in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and called upon the parties to exercise utmost restraint. They expressed their full support for the Geneva Declaration of Principles of 8 September 1995 and stressed that the parties were expected to negotiate in good faith on the basis of this Declaration with the aim of achieving lasting peace throughout the region.

11. The Ministers noted the work done by experts of the five permanent members on sanctions regimes and the incorporation of humanitarian considerations therein.

12. The Ministers welcomed the indefinite extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the commitment of States parties to the universalization of the Treaty. The Ministers noted also with satisfaction the two decisions taken by the Review and Extension Conference concerning the process for reviewing the Treaty as well as the principles and objectives for non-proliferation and disarmament which will contribute to the full implementation of the Treaty. The Ministers recalled Security Council resolution 984 (1995) as well as the declarations by the nuclear-weapon States

concerning both negative and positive security assurances. The Ministers expressed their support for the completion by the Conference on Disarmament of the negotiations on a universal and internationally and effectively verifiable comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty no later than 1996 as well as the early conclusion of negotiations on a non-discriminating and universally applicable convention banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

The Ministers stressed the need for the international community to continue to reinforce efforts to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction with the view to the ultimate destruction of such weapons.

13. The Ministers underlined that sustainable development is indispensable to the achievement and maintenance of peace and security among and between nations. The changes in economic and political conditions in recent years offer an opportunity to strengthen international cooperation for development. The United Nations has to play a creative and forward-looking role in assisting countries, especially developing countries and countries making the transition to a market economy, in their efforts to achieve broad-based and sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development. In this regard, the Ministers noted with satisfaction the progress accomplished in the elaboration of an Agenda for Development and expressed their wish that it would significantly contribute to the enhancement of the role of the United Nations in the economic and social fields. The Ministers also stressed the importance of the completion of the present cycle of international conferences and called for an effective and integrated implementation of their decisions and recommendations, with the primary objectives of eradicating extreme poverty, satisfying the basic needs of all people, avoiding the marginalization from a globalized world of the poorest countries, facilitating economic growth in the context of sustainable development and promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms.

14. The Ministers stressed the high political importance they attach to the need to find a solution to the financial problems affecting the United Nations, with a view to ensuring a sound and fair, and therefore stable, financial basis for the Organizations, thus enabling the United Nations to perform its mandates.

The Ministers pointed out that the proper functioning of the United Nations depends on the resources its Member States put at its disposal, notably by the full and punctual payment of their financial contributions. They emphasized that this is crucial for the success of United Nations peace-keeping operations.

The Ministers took note of the efforts of the High-level Working Group on the Financial Situation of the United Nations and stressed the need for the urgent adoption of concrete measures in order to prevent further deterioration of the financial situation and to increase cost-effectiveness. In this regard, they noted the importance of a scale of assessments which would reflect the principle of capacity to pay as precisely as possible.

15. The Ministers stressed the importance they attach to United Nations reform to make it more transparent, accountable, efficient and effective and to enable it to meet better the objectives set out in the Charter.

16. The Ministers welcomed the conclusions of the Working Group of the General Assembly on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council, inter alia, that the Council should be expanded, and that its working methods should continue to be reviewed in a way that further strengthens its capacity and effectiveness, enhances its representative character and improves its working efficiency and transparency; and they noted that important differences on key issues continue to exist.

17. The Ministers thanked the Secretary-General for this exchange of views and expressed the belief that the continuation of close consultations between the Foreign Ministers of the five permanent members of the Security Council and the Secretary-General is very useful.